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RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 0587
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RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 1052
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 4891
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0648
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STATE FOR AIAG/WINN, OES, M/MED, NEA/RA/LAWSON
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SENSITIVE
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [TBIO](#) [KFLU](#) [JO](#)
SUBJECT: Embassy Avian Influenza Task Force Meeting - Jordan
Continues Capacity-Building; Embassy Guidance Updated

REF: A. Amman 159
[1](#)B. Amman 69
[1](#)C. 07 Amman 5012
[1](#)D. 07 Amman 1276

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. HANDLE ACCORDINGLY.

[1](#)1. (SBU) Embassy Amman's Avian Influenza (AI) Task Force met February 20 to review the status of avian flu tracking and preparedness in Jordan. Jordan has not reported any new cases of AI since March 2006. Jordan has also participated in regional preparedness planning exercises through the Middle East Consortium of Infectious Diseases. The first table-top exercise for pandemic flu was held in January 2008 and the draft report is currently being finalized (ref A). Additional regional tabletop exercises are likely to be scheduled in 2008.

[1](#)2. (U) With the assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) continues to establish national active surveillance systems for backyard, commercial, and migratory birds. The MOA has developed field manuals and lab diagnostic kits to support its field staff in its surveillance programs, and developed its own trip-wires (posted on its website in Arabic). The MOA has also received additional testing kits from the FAO.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Resident Advisor Gerber gave an overview of the global avian influenza situation, currently at the WHO's phase three definition (cases in birds, but no efficient human-to-human transmission). Embassy Amman trip-wires were reviewed, and no changes were deemed necessary at this time. Post's medical unit is updating its list of employees and family members having medical capabilities or first-responder skills who could be called upon for assistance in case of a pandemic. Embassy country clearance templates and consular information sheets have also been reviewed to reflect current information on the existing AI threat and appropriate precautions.

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